GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2323
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
MODERNISATION OF MINING OPERATIONS
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to modernize the operations of underground and open cast mines of Coal India Ltd. especially Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a): Modernization of coal mines is a continuous process and Coal India Limited (CIL) has been taking initiatives in modernizing their mines. There are 468 mines in CIL of which 283 are underground mines, 149 are opencast mines and 36 are mixed mines having both underground and opencast operations. All 149 opencast mines are mechanized and out of 283 underground mines 197 are mechanized. Of the remaining 86 underground mines, 66 mines are identified for mechanisation in next five years.

Opencast mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) are already mechanized with modern technology. MCL has proposals to modernize operation of underground mines. In underground mines manual coal loading has been replaced by loading machines like Side Discharge Loaders (SDLs) / Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs) in conjunction with belt conveyors. Continuous Miner Technology is been adopted in 3 of the underground mines namely, HBI mine, Orient Mine No.1 and Orient Mine No.2. Man riding systems have been ordered for installation in four underground mines of MCL to reduce travel time of miners.

(b) The company-wise details of modernization/mechanisation planned for next 5 years is furnished below:-

	ECL	BCCL	WCL	SECL	CCL	MCL	TOTAL (CIL)
Mines to be mechanized in next 5 years with SDL/LHD	8	47	2	4	3	2	66
No. of mines to be mechanized in next 5 years with Continuous Miner Technology	3	1	8	6	1	5	24#
No. of mines to be mechanized in next 5 years with Longwall Technology	1	2	3#				
No. of mines to be mechanized in next 5 years with Shortwall Technology	1	1#					

These mines are already mechanized and further mechanisation is planned.

(c): All the opencast mines are being planned with mechanized operations. Wherever it is feasible the workings of underground mines are being mechanized replacing manual loading operations. Mass production technologies like deployment of Continuous miners and Power Supported Longwall operations are also being adopted for improving production, productivity and safety of underground workings.